



FAFSA Finish Line

The Arizona Commission for Postsecondary Education (ACPE) is participating with the U.S. Department of Education in the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) Completion Initiative. The data sharing agreement between the ACPE and the U.S. Department of Education provides the legal framework for the ACPE to produce school specific FAFSA Finish Line reports.

How Does FAFSA Finish Line Work?

An authorized individual (from a high school or district office), receives access to student level information on FAFSA completion statuses. Each cohort of Senior students is securely matched to FAFSA data files to identify the status of the student's application, such as "complete," "not complete," or "missing signature(s)". Knowing the FAFSA completion status allows school personnel to provide targeted assistance to students and increase successful completion rates.

FAFSA Finish Line Results

After the first 3 months of the 2017-2018 FAFSA cycle, 25 of the FAFSA Finish Line high schools who actively used the reports had completed 3,034 FAFSA's. The same 25 high schools completed 2,805 FAFSA's during the first three months of the 2016-2017 FAFSA cycle. These 25 high schools saw an 8.2% growth of complete FAFSA's over the prior year.

How Can I Participate in FAFSA Finish Line?

Interested high schools or district administrators **must sign a data-sharing agreement** with the ACPE, agreeing to comply with required oversight, privacy, data security, and non-disclosure policies as outlined by the ACPE and the U.S. Department of Education.

Authorized individuals will then **complete a User Agreement** and be given a User ID and secure access to an online portal in order to retrieve their cohort data. A user guide and training is provided.

For more information or to obtain your data-sharing agreement, **please contact Daniel Helm, Associate Director for State Student Financial Assistance at 602.258.2435 or email dhelm@azhighered.gov.**

The Importance of FAFSA

- Over \$150 billion available in federal student aid
- 90% of high school graduates who complete the FAFSA enroll in college
- Helping first-generation and under-served families complete the FAFSA significantly increases the odds that their children will enroll in college

Working Together

The ACPE, is helping to make sure all Arizona high school students complete at least ONE application to attend a postsecondary institution and to file a FAFSA.

- High Schools are building a college-going community
- In 2017, FAFSA Finish Line has 4 District partners and 53 high school partners